



# City of Hampton, VA

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

22 Lincoln Street  
Hampton, VA 23669  
[www.hampton.gov](http://www.hampton.gov)

*Ross A. Kearney, II*  
*Will Moffett*  
*Joseph H. Spencer, II*  
*Molly Joseph Ward, Mayor*

*Christopher G. Stuart*  
*Donnie R. Tuck*  
*George E. Wallace*

*Staff:*  
*Mary Bunting, City Manager*  
*Cynthia Hudson, City Attorney*  
*Katherine K. Glass, CMC, Clerk of Council*

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| Wednesday, May 23, 2012 | 5:29 PM | Council Chambers, 8th Floor, City Hall |
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#### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

#### **GEORGE E. WALLACE PRESIDED**

**PRESENT:** Ross A. Kearney, II, Will Moffett, Joseph H. Spencer, II, Christopher G. Stuart, Donnie R. Tuck

**ABSENT:** Molly Joseph Ward

Vice Mayor George Wallace called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m. The Clerk called the roll which reflected Mayor Ward's absence.

Vice Mayor Wallace explained that Mayor Ward was not present as she accepted an invitation to participate in a National Park Service conference at James Madison University in Harrisonburg as a panelist to discuss the City of Hampton Fort Monroe National Monument. He stated that this is another opportunity to promote the City of Hampton and Fort Monroe to a wider audience.

Councilman Donnie Tuck gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Mayor Wallace indicated that this meeting was City Council's annual recognition of the Valedictorians and Salutatorians, a practice originally conceived by former Councilman Rhet Tignor.

#### **CEREMONIAL ITEMS - "Spotlight on Citizens"**

At Vice Mayor Wallace's request, Technology Coordinator Mr. Brian Marchese opened the Spotlight on Citizens' portion of the meeting.

Following a video highlighting the accomplishments of the students being recognized, Vice Mayor Wallace complimented the students on their success and complimented the school system for consistently turning out graduates who are accepted to the most prestigious colleges and universities in the country.

1. 12-0206 Recognition of Brionna Atkins, Valedictorian, and Tiffany Sell, Salutatorian, of Hampton High School.

Ms. Myra Chambers, Principal of Hampton High School, introduced Brionna Atkins, Valedictorian, and Tiffany Sell, Salutatorian. Vice Mayor Wallace presented their awards and both young ladies then gave brief remarks.

PRESENTED by Vice Mayor Wallace.

2. 12-0207 Recognition of Terry "T J" Stokes, Valedictorian, and Brooke Smith, Salutatorian, of Kecoughtan High School.

Mr. Raymond Haynes, Principal of Kecoughtan High School, introduced Brooke Smith, Salutatorian. Vice Mayor Wallace presented her award. T J Stokes, Valedictorian, was unable to be present due to a conflicting commitment. Miss Smith expressed her appreciation for being recognized.

PRESENTED by Vice Mayor Wallace. T. J. Stokes was not able to attend due to another commitment.

3. 12-0208 Recognition of Mia Knowles, Valedictorian, and Ian Griffin, Salutatorian, of Phoebus High School.

Mr. Robert Johnson, Principal of Phoebus High School, introduced Mia Knowles, Valedictorian, and Ian Griffin, Salutatorian. Vice Mayor Wallace presented their awards. Both students gave brief remarks.

PRESENTED by Vice Mayor Wallace.

4. 12-0209 Recognition of Johnafaye Mariano, Valedictorian, and Amber Gonzalez, Salutatorian, of Bethel High School.

Mr. John Bailey, Principal of Bethel High School, introduced Johnafaye Mariano, Valedictorian, and Amber Gonzalez, Salutatorian. These students were unable to attend as Bethel High School's senior class was on a field trip to Washington, DC. Their parents accepted the awards in their absence.

Mr. Marchese congratulated the students for all of their hard work and invited Dr. Linda Shifflette, Superintendent of Schools, to speak. Dr. Shifflette recognized Jennifer Phillips, a member of the School Board who was in attendance. She also recognized Monica Smith who was recently elected to the School Board and who is also the parent of Brooke Smith, one of the night's honorees. Dr. Shifflette thanked the City Council for honoring the students in this way and shared her pride in the students being honored. She remarked that Ms. Knowles is a Gates Millennium Scholar, one of only eight in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and will have her entire expenses paid to include tuition, board, computers, etc. She expressed her gratitude for the support of the City's leaders, community members, business partners and the parents and asked that the parents of the award recipients stand to be recognized.

Vice Mayor Wallace called a five minute recess before beginning the Public Comment section of the meeting.

Councilman Kearney left the meeting during the recess to attend a church function.

PRESENTED by Vice Mayor Wallace. The Bethel students were not able to attend as they are attending the senior field trip to Washington, DC.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Clerk of Council Ms. Katherine Glass read the protocol for the Public Comment Period.

Mr. Ted Henifin, 63 Cherokee Road, greeted Vice Mayor Wallace and the members of Council and made the following statement: I am here tonight to represent the Downtown Hampton Child Development Center (DHCDC). You just saw awards to your top students at the very pinnacle of their careers and it is only fitting that we come here tonight to thank you for your support for the kids at the very beginning of their careers at school. We start them out in the right direction. We have been doing it for forty years with your partnership and we thought tonight would be a great night to say thanks for that continued partnership.

Mr. Henifin acknowledged DHCDC Board Members, staff members, parents and students in attendance by having them stand.

Mr. Henifin continued his statement. We started Humble Beginnings as a partnership which began with downtown churches. The City was with us from the beginning. We have partnered with Hampton City Schools. It has been a wonderful thing. The studies are clear. The investment we make in early childhood education creates students like you saw tonight. It gives them the opportunity to succeed that they wouldn't have any other way. We are the only sliding scale facility on the Peninsula. We take a great deal of pride in serving the Hampton area. We serve about 200 students every year. They are wonderful kids and it is a great program. Tonight, we are here to say thanks.

Mr. Caleb Daniels, 26 Ravenscroft Lane, made the following statement. Both of my daughters, Adah who is four years old and Ella who is two, go to DHCDC. I wanted to share the impact the DHCDC has had on the lives of my family, specifically, the blessing it has been to my girls, my wife and I. My four year old, Adah, was diagnosed at two years old with a degenerative neurological condition known as Rett Syndrome. It looks a lot like autism to people who are not familiar with it. She lost the ability to speak. She no longer speaks and uses a communication device to speak with us. Finding a daycare who will take such an extreme special needs child is a challenge for us. My wife and I came to Langley Air Force Base while we were both active duty in the Air Force. We are both civilians here now. We are long-term members and are trying to invest in the community because we know we are going to be here for a while. Finding a good daycare is paramount and is especially heightened when you have a special needs child. Adah lost all communications and had behavioral issues. She has been at DHCDC for almost a year and we have seen her blossom into an amazing four year old that we never thought we would get to see. Due to the interaction with her teachers, Ms. Rice and Ms. Scott, she has accomplished things that doctors told us she would never accomplish. She walks. Most Rett girls don't walk. She answers "yes and no". Most Rett girls don't answer "yes or no". She interacts with her sister and understands the social interaction of being a big sister. All of those social and behavioral things that have

changed in her life are a direct result of the staff and teachers at DHCDC. My two year old, Ella, is a typical two year old. Her love of art and music has been heightened and enhanced since her time at DHCDC with her teachers. I want to thank them for everything they have done for us. Thank you for the time to share our small story with you.

Ms. Jaynelle Oehler, 108 Bramston Drive, greeted the members of Council and made the following statement: We are thrilled to be here to say thank you for forty wonderful years of serving young children. We are raising those superstars that you saw earlier. We are giving them a really strong foundation. All of the research says this is where the investment needs to be starting as early as we can.

Ms. Oehler and former DHCDC students presented each member of Council with a stationery gift set. The pictures on the stationery were designed by DHCDC students. Ms. Oehler thanked Council for their support.

On behalf of the City and the City Council, Vice Mayor Wallace thanked DHCDC for giving to our community.

Mr. Edwin Boone, 48 Snow Street, read a poem he wrote entitled "Insight".

I stand in a glaring light. It stares at the truth. There are no shadows or obstacles that blind me. I am called Insight. I see what others are blind to. I do not elude the pathway that leads me. I travel on a path that others dare to follow. I am not obscured by the shadows. I seek a friend called truth. The light shines so bright when truth is in sight. It is only He that knows the answer. Truth waits in the darkness. It is only He that sees the light.

Mr. Boone then made the following statement: There is a Commonwealth's Attorney election on June 12. They are supposed to meet here for a forum on May 29th. The individual that we need to vote for is Dee Vantree-Keller. She has been living here for 39 years. She has her own company here. She has her family here. Her kids go to school here. She is a Democrat and should have been on the May 1st ballot. She was the only Democrat. The person that is running against her came here in January from Virginia Beach. The forum is May 29th. The election is June 12. He is not even legally able to run until he has lived in Hampton for six months. The majority of our City Council and the Mayor are sponsoring a Republican. He does not live here. His house is in Virginia Beach. His family lives in Virginia Beach. His kids go to Virginia Beach schools. We need to vote Dee Vantree-Keller in as the Commonwealth's Attorney because she has a vested interest and vested rights in the City of Hampton. She understands the City. She goes to church here. Anton Bell is a carpetbagger, someone that does not live here. He has to have six months from January to June, and the forum is May 29th. My question is, since he does not live here, why is the City Council, most of whom are Democrats, sponsoring a Republican? Thank you.

Vice Mayor Wallace called for additional speakers. There were no additional speakers. Vice Mayor Wallace then asked if any members of Council wished to make comments. There were no comments made by the Councilmembers.

Adjournment

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Molly Joseph Ward  
Mayor

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Katherine K. Glass, CMC  
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council \_\_\_\_\_